PATENT USSN: 10/564,556 Atty Dkt: 034225.002

AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

- 1. (Currently amended) A proton-conducting polymer membrane wherein 1 to 40 parts by weight of ionomer/solid proton conductor having sulfoalkyl or sulfoaryl groups inserted in metal phosphate layers of the ionomer/solid proton conductor wherein the metal is a group IV metal is dispersed in 100 parts by weight of proton-conducting polymer having proton-exchanging groups in side chain.
- 2. (Original) The proton-conducting polymer membrane of claim 1, wherein said proton-exchanging group is selected from the group consisting of sulfonic acid, carboxylic acid, phosphoric acid, phosphonic acid and derivatives thereof.
- 3-4. (Canceled)
- 5. (Currently amended) The proton-conducting polymer membrane of claim 1, wherein said ionomer/solid proton conductor is a compound selected from the group consisting of empounds represented by the following Chemical Formula 1:

M(O₃PCH₃)₂, M(O₃PCH₂OH)₂•H₂O, M(O₃PCH₂COOH)₂, M(O₃P(CH₂)₄COOH)₂, M(O₃P(CH₂)₅COOH)₂, M(O₃PCH₂SO₃H)₂,

 $M(O_3P(CH_2)_2SO_3H)_2$, $M(O_3POH)(O_3PC_2H_4COOH) • nH_2O$,

 $M(O_3POH)_x(O_3PC_2H_4COOH)_v$ * nH_2O , $M(O_3POH)_x(O_3PC_2H_4COOH)_v$,

 $M(O_{3}PC_{2}H_{5})_{\lambda}(O_{3}PC_{6}H_{4}SO_{3}H)_{y}*nH_{2}O, \\ M(O_{3}CH_{2}OH)_{\lambda}(O_{3}PC_{6}H_{4}SO_{3}H)_{y}*nH_{2}O \\ \frac{1}{2}O \\ \frac{1}{2$

wherein M is a group IV element selected from Zr, Ti, Ce, Th and Sn; x+y=2; and n is a real number in the range from 0 to 20.

 (Original) The proton-conducting polymer membrane of claim 1, wherein said protonconducting polymer membrane has a thickness ranging from 30 to 125

µm.

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 (Withdrawn, Currently amended) A method of preparing a proton-conducting polymer membrane according to claim 1, comprising the steps of:

- dissolving a proton-conducting polymer having proton-exchanging groups in side chain in an organic solvent to prepare a 5 to 10 wt % proton-conducting polymer solution;
- 2) dispersing a ionomer/solid proton conductor in an organic solvent to prepare a 5 to 10 wt % ionomer/solid proton conductor solution;
- 3) mixing said proton-conducting polymer solution and said ionomer/solid proton conductor solution, so that 100 parts by weight of proton-conducting polymer is mixed with 1 to 40 parts by weight of ionomer/solid proton conductor; and
 - 4) preparing a polymer membrane using said mixture solution.
- 8. (Withdrawn) The method of preparing a proton-conducting polymer membrane of claim 7, wherein said organic solvent is one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of N-methyl-2-pyrrolidinone (NMP), dimethylsformamide (DMF), dimethylacetamide (DMA), tetrahydrofuran (THF), dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO), acetone, methyl ethyl ketone (MEK), tetramethylurea, trimethylphosphate, butyrolactone, isophorone, carbitol acetate, methylisobutylketone, n-butyl acetate, cyclohexanone, diacetone alcohol, diisobutyl ketone, ethyl acetoacetate, glycol ether, propylene carbonate, ethylene carbonate, dimethylcarbonate and diethyl carbonate.
- (Previously presented) A membrane-electrode assembly using the proton-conducting polymer membrane of any one of claims 1, 2, 5 and 6.
- 10. (Original) A fuel cell containing the membrane-electrode assembly of claim 9.
- 11. (New) A proton-conducting polymer membrane wherein 1 to 40 parts by weight of solid proton conductor having sulfoalkyl or sulfoaryl groups in crystalline metal phosphate layers of the solid proton conductor wherein the metal is a group IV metal is dispersed in 100 parts by weight of proton-conducting polymer having proton-exchanging groups in side chain.